

Rifle magazine saves man's life

Story and photo by Sgt. Troy Chatwin
367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TIKRIT – Employing recent training from Task Force Ironhorse soldiers and a lot of luck, Amged Gawhar Suliman has a story to tell his grandchildren.

When a train carrying supplies for Task Force Ironhorse was derailed by an improvised explosive device, the first on the scene were Coalition-trained members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps.

During the first chaotic minutes, a group of suspected saboteurs drove by and fired shots at the Iraqi force.

As the ICDC soldiers engaged those shooters, they were attacked from behind by armed thieves who had boarded the train to steal supplies.

One of the ICDC soldiers returned to where they live to bring reinforcements.

That is how Suliman, an ICDC soldier from Tikrit, arrived on the scene.

“When we arrived at the train, the looters were hiding in a farm in ambush and began shooting at us,” said Suliman through a translator.

When Suliman emptied one magazine at the

looters and tried replacing it, his weapon jammed.

He selected a third magazine and continued to fight.

After the smoke cleared, the ICDC forces had detained five looters and prepared another local suspect, injured in the conflict, to be transported to Forward Operating Base Omaha.

During the mop-up stage, a final single shot rang out.

“After the shot came on me, I opened the car door and went down on the ground,” Suliman said.

Checking inside his shirt and finding blood,



Amged Gawhar Suliman shows the magazine that saved his life.

Suliman got back into a car and returned to FOB Omaha where a medic removed a small fragment from the Iraqi's chest from that last round.

It was only then Suliman discovered the earlier magazine that had malfunctioned wasn't faulty, but had blocked a shot aimed for his chest.

Wearing the magazines across his torso had proved to be a life-saving choice.

“I don't know where it came from, but I felt it,” said Suliman, who was fasting for Ramadan. Suliman, who joined the newly formed ICDC to be a part of building a new Iraq, said that God only knows if his fasting protected him.

“I am very happy,” said Suliman. “If not for this magazine, the bullet would have gone into my heart.”

Al Anbar focuses on economic recovery

Story by Sgt. Gabe Nix
350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

AR RAMADI — To help Iraq become more self-sufficient, soldiers with the 304th Civil Affairs Battalion, in coordination with Ar Ramadi's Young Businessmen's Association, hosted the Al Anbar Business Development Conference December 1 and 2.

The conference covered topics including the role of government, the legal climate in business development and new opportunities for business in the Al Anbar region.

The conference featured both Iraqi and Coalition speakers. The local ministries represented included transportation, justice, industry, and electricity. Coalition speakers included CPA governance coordinator Keith Mines, as well as soldiers with various business backgrounds.

While the 304th Civil Affairs Battalion was vital in helping plan the event, local businessmen were the driving forces behind getting the event started, said Lt. Col. K.C. Garner, officer in charge of the business development conference.

“The Young Businessmen's Association was the prime mover in getting the event started. They approached us,” said Garner.

Garner went on to say that the YBA did a lot of work to behind the scene to prepare for the event. YBA members put together a folder to hand out to all of the attendees, prepared a banner welcoming the participants, and printed an agenda book and calendar book with the YBA logo.

The YBA and the 304th are working hand-in-hand to ensure the success of the Al Anbar Business Development Conference.

Maj. David Menegon, with the 304th economics team, said this is an opportunity for the Iraqi busi-

nessmen to learn about the free market, as they transition from a state-run economy to one that relies more heavily on private businesses.

“It allows businessmen to network and find additional business opportunities, with the goal of creating jobs,” said Menegon, who is a marketing executive in New York City when he is not soldiering with the Army Reserve.

Menegon fills the role of both facilitator and instructor during the event.

The New York native shared his business knowledge by speaking to the attendees about how to attract foreign investment by presenting their businesses, as well as the Al Anbar region, as attractive investments.

This combined effort between soldiers and civilians will lead to a more self-sufficient Iraq, Menegon said. The hard work put forth by both groups shows Iraq is moving in the right direction.

**Contributions to the
newspaper
are welcome from
servicemembers.
Submit stories to
cpiccmdinfo@baghdadforum.com**



Mr. and Mrs. Soldier

Couple who serves together, stays together

Story by Sgt. 1st Class
Bill Sutherland
18th Military Police Brigade

BAGHDAD — Sgt. Lauren and Spc. Jason Warner celebrate their wedding anniversary this month and it will be a quiet ceremony. But, unlike most soldiers, they won't have to mail cards to each other. They will be together when that date arrives.

Both are with the 320th Military Police Company and deployed together to the Baghdad Correctional Facility in Iraq.

Lauren and Jason were married

Lauren explained how they met. They met shortly before before she joined the Army. After she got to know Justin, she convinced him to talk with a recruiter and invited a recruiter to her house to talk to him.

"The recruiter took it from there," said Jason. Jason joined shortly after and completed training as an MP and joined the 320th MP Company, a reserve unit next to Lauren's group of the 367th MP Company. Both units are in Ashley, Penn.

Lauren still thinks this deployment is easier on them than on most



Sgt. Lauren and Spc. Jason Warner talk for a few minutes. Both work at the Baghdad Correctional Facility but are on different shifts.

just before the unit received orders to deploy. Shortly afterwards, they both deployed as husband and wife to Iraq.

"I get busted a lot from the other guys, about me and my wife being here together, but we haven't seen a lot of each other since we got here," said Justin.

The Warner's deployment as a couple brings both good and bad.

"Once in a while we get to see each other. He works the compound at night and I work in the tactical operations center at day," said Lauren. She works as an administrative assistant. Jason's job is as a compound guard, and he helps with the welfare and order of the detainees. He also helps with special requests for detainee family visits.

Lauren knows that they are soldiers first but it's still nice having her husband close.

others because they can share a few passing moments together.

"It's hard to cross paths with him because we work different shifts and when he gets off (work), I am just going to work," said Lauren.

But if they want to talk, Lauren said they write notes to each other and arrange to meet somewhere.

"When my father was sick it was hard being here but it was easy to talk to Jay about my dad," Lauren said.

Both soldiers know Army regulations don't permit the show of affection while in uniform. But Lauren readily admits it's still nice to have your husband around.

"Long hours, no days off, that's the life of an MP," Justin said. "It certainly does help having my wife here.

"Even if I only get to see her for five minutes — that's more than the others have," said Justin.

Courts Martial

15 troops here found guilty of various UCMJ violations

The following are the results of the cases from the November courts martial:

V Corps: Soldier convicted of aggravated assault on an NCO; sentenced to nine months confinement, reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge from the military.

V Corps: NCO convicted of stealing government laptops and mailing them home; sentenced to 30 days confinement, two months hard labor without confinement, reduction to E-1 and forfeiture of \$795 per month for 10 months.

V Corps: NCO convicted of adultery, indecent acts and obstruction of justice; sentenced to six months confinement, reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge from the military.

V Corps: Soldier convicted of assault; sentenced to 85 days confinement, reduction to E-1, and a bad conduct discharge from the military.

V Corps: NCO convicted of stealing government laptops and having them mailed home; sentenced to reduction to E-1, confinement for 45 days and forfeiture of \$750 per month for 10 months.

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault): NCO convicted of a violation of General Order 1A; sentenced to reduction in rank to E-1 and confined for 179 days.

101st Abn. Div. (AA): Soldier convicted of a violation of GO#1A, theft, assault, and kidnapping; sentenced to reduction in rank to E-1, 179 days confinement, and a bad conduct discharge from the military.

101st Abn. Div. (AA): NCO convicted of dereliction of duty, a violation of GO#1, false official statement and robbery; sentenced to reduction in grade to E-3, 30 months confinement and bad conduct discharged from the military.

101st Abn. Div. (AA): Soldier convicted of assault against several other soldiers in his unit; sentenced to be a reduced to E-1 and 175 days confinement.

101st Abn. Div. (AA): Soldier was convicted of absenting himself without leave and missing movement prior to his unit's deployment; sentenced to reduction in grade to E-1, confinement for 13 months, and a bad conduct discharge from the military.

101st Abn. Div. (AA): Soldier convicted of larceny and wrongful solicitation of other soldiers in his unit to commit an offense; sentenced reduction in grade to E-1 and confinement for 10 months.

101st Abn. Div. (AA): NCO convicted of assault and dereliction of duty; sentenced to a reprimand and forfeiture of \$1,000 a month for two months.

101st Abn. Div. (AA): NCO convicted of adultery; sentenced to reduction in grade to E-1, four months confinement and a bad conduct discharge.

379th Air Expeditionary Wing: Airman convicted of multiple counts of larceny and one count conspiracy; sentenced to reduction in rank to E-1, bad conduct discharge, confinement for six months and fined \$1,500.

379th AEW: Airman convicted of four counts of larceny and one count of conspiracy; sentenced to demotion to E-1, five months confinement and a bad conduct discharge.

Work with media to improve relations

They're not the enemy but we have rules of engagement for talking and dealing with them.

The media will always be present any time the military is involved in an operation. And this one is no different. The military's relationship with the media has always been wary. Each organization has preconceived ideas of the purpose of the other.

But just like any other battlefield element, there are rules for dealing with the media.

Journalists, both print and electronic, have a right to be present at combat operations and catastrophic events and has been established by international law, Defense Department and Central Command policy. However, the journalists do so at their own risk.

Military troops are obligated to treat members of the media with respect and remain professional and calm.

Mistreating members of the media will not be allowed under CENTCOM and CJTF-7 policy. Physical or verbal assaults are not allowed under any circumstances and troops who abuse members of the media can be subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Troops may encounter two types of media in the field: embedded media are guests of the Coalition units. They have registered with and are sponsored by CJTF-7. They



Photo by Sgt. Tyrone Walker/319th MPAD

Spc. Jazmin Del Rio, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, talks to a media representative during an interview for Good Morning America.

receive preferential treatment under the rules of embedding media. Any embedded media who breaks the previously agreed upon rules can be removed from the embed program and lose their CJTF-7 sponsorship.

The other category of media is known as unilateral media. These representatives do not have formal support from the military and are not

authorized any special treatment that would not be granted to a member of the general public. Attempts will be made to accommodate their requests but no guarantee is made.

Regardless of which category of media approaches, there are guidelines for troops to follow as well.

Confirm the obvious. If there is a fire behind you, it's okay to say

there's a fire behind you but don't speculate on what caused the fire or where the fire will spread. Other questions should be directed to the public affairs office.

Don't restrain members of the media unless there is clearly illegal activity such as inciting a riot, attempts to enter cordoned areas, or purposefully disobeying instructions of a security official. Warnings should be given on the first violation; detention is a last resort. If detention becomes the only option, don't use unnecessary force and try to protect any photographic or recording devices.

These devices could be used as evidence to support the need for detention or restraint or for security review.

As soon as possible after any encounter with representatives of the media, notify through operational command channels the public affairs officer and CJTF-7.

Effective use of the media is one of the best ways to gain public support and trust.

Ensuring our relationship with the media is fair and professional helps further the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Speaking to the media

Every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is a potential spokesperson about their own responsibilities and area of knowledge. If you've been given permission to speak to journalists, and you have agreed, remember the following tips:

- ☐ Relax!
- ☐ Be friendly, assertive, with a positive message.
- ☐ Avoid Jargon. Tell your story as though you were telling a civilian friend.
- ☐ Try and include some Key Messages.
- ☐ Don't say "No Comment."
- ☐ Don't just answer questions with 'yes' or 'no'.
- ☐ Refer complex or 'Big Picture' questions to a higher authority.
- ☐ If you don't know the answer, say so. Don't make things up, and don't lie.
- ☐ Don't speculate on hypothetical situations.
- ☐ Don't discuss operational capabilities or plans.
- ☐ For TV, look at the interviewer, not the camera.
- ☐ Discuss only matters over which you have direct responsibility or knowledge. Stay in your lane.
- ☐ Don't allow yourself to be badgered or harassed. Politely end the interview.
- ☐ Don't talk off the record. You might get stitched!
- ☐ Don't get angry!

A jigsaw puzzle

Parking aircraft on ramp takes skill

Story by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Detachment 1 Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE — It is like putting together a puzzle; where does each piece fit? In the case of aircraft maintenance here, how can aircraft best fit on the ramp?

"With limited space, it's almost like playing Tetris," said Maj. Stella Smith, Detachment 1 Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. "With construction (on the ramp) and the different aircraft coming in, parking is a juggling act."

Because of ongoing construction on the flightline, maintainers have to squeeze aircraft into five parking spots unlike at home station where they usually have many more spots.

The base averages about 20 aircraft arrivals a day, mostly C-130 Hercules, C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy aircraft. On the busiest days, they receive up to 30.

Because ramp space is limited, Master Sgt. Kent Henderson, EMXS superintendent, said he had to manually calculate which types of aircraft could be parked side-by-side and behind each other before the first aircraft landed.

The ramp can hold four C-17s, or one C-5 and a C-130, Henderson said.

"Everything has to work out perfectly — work in sequence," he said. "Parking spots don't get cold here. They turn (the aircraft) pretty fast. Most are gas n' gos.

"I look at it like it's fun and something different from home station," said Airman 1st Class Robert Highutt, an aircraft electronic and environmental specialist from McChord. "I actually like it. It's more of a challenge."

Smith said that attitude is common in the squadron, especially after several of the airmen heard Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, commander of 3rd Corps Support Command, illustrate the correlation



Photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman/332nd AEW
Airman 1st Class James Amelung marshals a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., to its parking spot.

between the number of convoys avoided by each aircraft delivery, saving lives and time.

An air delivery by a C-5 and C-17 represents about 18 convoys. Roughly every three pallets an aircraft brings in, saves one truck, trimming seven to nine days by convoy and keeping two soldiers per truck from potential exposure to enemy action.

"They really connect with that," Smith said. "They understand what we're doing here is important. They're really proud (of) keeping people out of harm's way."

Kirkuk Air Base Chapel Schedule

Friday

5 a.m., 7 p.m. — Islamic prayer

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Sky Soldier chapel)

Saturday

7 p.m. — Catholic Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. — Gospel Service

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

(Sky Soldier chapel)

10 a.m. — General Protestant

11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass

1 p.m. — Latter-Day Saints

2 p.m. — Catholic Mass (Sky Soldiers Chapel)

7 p.m. — Protestant Service

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. — Growing as a Christian: Studying the Book of James

Wednesday

8 a.m. — The Bible in Light of Current History and Local Events

5:30 p.m. — Building Your Faith: Studying the Book of Hebrews

*All services are held at the Ten Days From Tomorrow Chapel unless otherwise noted. Times subject to change. Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and other denominations should contact chapel administration for updates on their religious requirements

Need cash?

The 230th Finance Battalion is on Steadfast and Loyal Street next to the bombed-out palace in Tikrit.

Hours of operation:

Mondays — Saturdays

9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Sundays

10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Check cashing limit is \$200 per week and the casual pay limit is \$350 per month. A DA Form 2142 (pay inquiry) signed by an E-7 or above is needed for casual pay.

21st Combat Support Hospital

serving you at two locations...

Sick call and dental clinic
hours of operation

Balad

8 — 11 a.m. and 3 — 5 p.m.

Mosul

7 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Emergency rooms are open 24 hours a day.